Under international law, a refugee is a person who has fled the country of his nationality to avoid persecution or the threat of persecution. The United Nations Convention relating to the Status of Refugees gives a precise definition of the term. Interestingly, the Convention of the Organization of African Unity extends refugee status to all persons fleeing their country because of an armed conflict or internal disturbances.

See Displaced persons; Stateless persons; Non-refoulement;

**OUTLINE**

Chapter 8, III. Refugees and displaced persons in IHL

**LEGAL SOURCE**

nationals of Occupying Power in occupied territory

GCIV, 70

PI, 73
as protected persons

PI, 73 [8] and 85/2 [9]

in the enemy country

GCIV, 44 [10]

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Cartagena Declaration on Refugees [12]

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ICRC, Iran/Iraq Memoranda [13]

ICTY, The Prosecutor v. Kupreskic et al. (Paras. 587-588) [14]

Case Study, Armed Conflicts in the Great Lakes Region (Part 1., D.) [15]

Canada, Ramirez v. Canada [16]

Canada, Sivakumar v. Canada [17]
Switzerland, The Niyontese Case (A., 10) [18]

The armed conflict in Syria [19]


Myanmar, Forced Population Movements [21]

ECJ, Aboubacar Diakité v. Commissaire général aux réfugiés et aux apatrides [22]

BIBLIOGRAPHIC RESOURCES

Suggested readings:


Further readings:


Source URL: https://casebook.icrc.org/glossary/refugees

Links
[18] https://casebook.icrc.org/case-study/switzerland-niyonteze-case#part_a_10